

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) An antigen composition comprising a fluid fraction of an *E. rhusiopathiae* culture fluid fraction and a stabilizing agent, wherein the said *E. rhusiopathiae* culture is inactivated with beta-propiolactone and the culture said fluid fraction is substantially free of cells of *E. rhusiopathiae*, and wherein the stabilizing agent is a metal hydroxide, a metal phosphate, an aluminum hydroxide gel, a calcium phosphate gel, a zinc hydroxide/calcium hydroxide gel or an alum.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The antigen composition of Claim 13, wherein the fluid fraction is concentrated 6 to 20 fold.

17. (Currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising:

- (1) an antigen composition; and,
- (2) an adjuvant composition,

wherein the antigen composition comprises a fluid fraction of an *E. rhusiopathiae* culture fluid fraction and a stabilizing agent, the wherein said *E. rhusiopathiae* culture is inactivated and the culture said fluid fraction is substantially free of cells of *E. rhusiopathiae*; wherein the stabilizing agent is a metal hydroxide, a metal phosphate, an aluminum hydroxide gel, a calcium phosphate gel, a zinc hydroxide/calcium hydroxide gel or an alum, and wherein the adjuvant composition comprises-about 2% v/v lecithin, about 18% v/v mineral oil, and about 8% v/v of an amphiphilic surfactant with the remaining volume being a saline solution, wherein said vaccine composition protects an animal against *E. rhusiopathiae* infection.

18-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The antigen composition of Claim 13, wherein said stabilizing agent is

aluminum hydroxide gel.

25. (Currently amended) The antigen composition of Claim 13 24, wherein said stabilizing agent, aluminum hydroxide gel, is added to the concentrated composition to a final concentration of 30% v/v.

26. (Currently amended) The vaccine composition of Claim 17, wherein said stabilizing agent is aluminum hydroxide gel.

27. (Currently amended) The vaccine composition of Claim 17 26, wherein said stabilizing agent, aluminum hydroxide gel, is added to the concentrated composition to a final concentration of 30% v/v.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising:

- (1) an antigen composition; and,
- (2) an adjuvant composition,

wherein the antigen composition comprises a fluid fraction of an *E. rhusiopathiae* culture fluid fraction and a stabilizing agent, wherein the stabilizing agent is aluminum hydroxide gel and is present at about 30% v/v in said vaccine composition; wherein the *E. rhusiopathiae* culture is inactivated and the culture fluid fraction is substantially free of cells of *E. rhusiopathiae*; and, wherein the adjuvant composition comprises about 2% v/v lecithin, about 18% v/v mineral oil, and about 8% v/v of an amphiphilic surfactant with the remaining volume being a saline solution, wherein said vaccine composition protects an animal against *E. rhusiopathiae* infection.

31. (Previously presented) The vaccine composition of Claim 30, wherein said composition is stable at 2°C to 8°C for at least one year and provides immunity to weaned pigs for six months.

32. (Previously presented) The vaccine composition of Claim 17 or 30, wherein said *E. rhusiopathiae* culture is inactivated with formalin.

33. (Previously presented) The vaccine composition of Claim 17 or 30, wherein said *E. rhusiopathiae* culture is inactivated with beta-propiolactone.

34-39. (Cancelled)